

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3227

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORC, PDEV, UNGA, RQ

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 CONTINUES CONSIDERATION OF
PUERTO RICO, SEPTEMBER 6

REF: (A) USUN 3458, (B) USUN 3421

1. SUMMARY. EXPRESSING THE VIEW THAT A CONSENSUS COULD BE DEVELOPED, THE AUSTRALIAN AMB INTRODUCED A LARGE NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CUBA-IRAQI DRAFT RES IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) SEPTEMBER 6. STATEMENTS REFERRING TO INDIAN AMB JAIPAL'S "THREE POSITIVE ELEMENTS" OUTLINED ON SEPTEMBER 1 (REF B) AND SUPPORTING CONSENSUS WERE MADE BY INDONESIA, CHILE, SWEDEN AND TUNISIA. A MORE SURPRISING SUPPORTER OF CONSENSUS WAS USSR, WHO STOOD FIRM FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF "SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE" BUT FAVORED EFFORT BY SPONSORS AND THOSE HAVING AMENDMENTS TO WORK OUT AN AGREED TEXT. CZECHOSLVAKIA SUPPORTED THE CUBA-IRAQI DRAFT. CUBA, SPEAKING LAST, NOTED THAT THE AMENDMENTS RADICALLY ALTERED THE CONTENT AND PURPOSE OF THE RES, BUT WOULD BE CAREFULLY STUDIED WITHOUT PRE-JUDGMENT. THE CUBAN POSITION OF PRINCIPLE REMAINED AS PREVIOUSLY STATED. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 7 AT 3:00 P.M. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, AUSTRALIAN AMB ANDERSON FORMALLY PRESENTED AMENDMENTS TO THE CUBA-IRAQI DRAFT RES. (AMENDMENTS REPORTED SEPTTEL.) ANDERSON NOTED GA 1953 DECISION TO REMOVE PUERTO RICO FROM THE LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES AND AUSTRALIA'S AGREEMENT THAT THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO HAD EXERCISED A VALID ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. HE NOTED ALSO THAT THE RANGE OF VIEWS EXPRESSED BY PETITIONERS THIS SESSION INDICATED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO NOW WISHED TO REVIEW THEIR PRESENT CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS. POINTING OUT THAT THE DECISION ON FUTURE STATUS WAS THEIRS ALONE, HE REFERRED TO AMB JAIPAL'S "THREE POSITIVE ELEMENTS" (CALL FOR A REFERENDUM, PRESIDENT CARTER'S SUPPORT FOR THE OUTCOME AND AMB YOUNG'S STATEMENT THAT USG WOULD NOT OBJECT SHOULD PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO INVITE UN OBSERVERS). TURNING TO THE CUBA-IRAQI DRAFT, HE NOTED THAT IT CONTAINED ELEMENTS PROVIDING A BASIS FOR A CONSENSUS BUT ALSO PROVISIONS CONTRARY TO THE CHARTER AND TO GA RESOLUTION 1514 AND 1541. IN PARTICULAR, THE RES WOULD HAVE THE C-24 DENY TO THE PUERTO RICANS THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY DETERMINE THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE. EXPRESSING HIS VIEW THAT A CONSENSUS COULD BE DEVELOPED AROUND THE BASIC TENET THAT THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO MUST BE PARAMOUNT, HE INTRODUCED THE AMENDMENTS. (TEXT OF STATEMENT POUCH DEPT - IO/UNP:SVENDSEN.)

3. AMB ANWAR SANI OF INDONESIA AGREED WITH AMB JAIPAL THAT IT WAS NOT PROPER FOR THE C-24 TO EXPRESS A PREFERENCE ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE PUERTO RICANS. HE NOTED THE SIGNIFICANT "THREE POSITIVE ELEMENTS" MENTIONED

BY JAIPAL AND ALSO THOUGHT A CONSENSUS COULD BE BUILT
AROUND THEM. THE AMENDMENTS DESERVED APPROPRIATE REVIEW
IN THE SEARCH FOR A CONSENSUS, HE CONCLUDED.

4. CHILEAN REP MONSALVE ALSO SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF
SEEKING CONSENSUS. HE REITERATED CHILE'S FIRM POSITION
THAT NEITHER THE C-24 NOR THE GA HAD THE AUTHORITY TO
IMPOSE ON A TERRITORY ITS PREFERENCE FOR POLITICAL
STATUS. HE FOUND THAT THE DRAFT RES WAS NOT IN LINE
WITH THAT PRINCIPLE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT CHILE DID NOT
SUPPORT OR REJECT ANY ONE OF THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO
THOSE EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION.
IT WAS FOR THE PEOPLE TO DECIDE.

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INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3228

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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5. SWEDISH REP HEINEBACK ALSO FAVORED AN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS, REFERRING TO THE "THREE POSITIVE ELEMENTS" MENTIONED BY AMB JAIPAL AND SUGGESTING THAT THE COMMITTEE CONTINUE EFFORTS TO FIND EVEN MORE COMMON GROUND ALONG THE SAME LINES. THE RANGE OF VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE PETITIONERS ILLUSTRATED THEIR POLITICAL MATURITY, HE SAID. IN 1952 WHEN THEY CHOSE COMMONWEALTH STATUS, THEY WERE NOT UNANIMOUS, HE REMARKED, NOR ARE THEY NOW. IT WAS EVIDENT FROM THE PETITIONERS THAT NO POLITICAL PARTY IN PUERTO RICO SEEMED TO BE TOTALLY HAPPY WITH THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT AND THAT ALL WOULD LIKE SOME DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, THEY ALONE SHOULD DECIDE THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE. IF ANY ATTEMPTS TO RESTRICT THEIR FREE CHOICE WERE MADE, VIGOROUS UN ACTION WOULD BE WARRANTED.

6. TUNISIAN REP BACHROUCH STRONGLY SUPPORTED AMB JAIPAL'S APPEAL FOR CONSENSUS, REMARKING THAT THERE WERE ELEMENTS FOR IT IN THE CUBA-IRAQI DRAFT RES, AS WELL AS SOME CONTROVERSIAL POINTS. HE FELT THAT THE DRAFT SHOULD BE REVIEWED IN LIGHT OF STATEMENTS BY ALL THE PETITIONERS AND C-24 MEMBERS. HE CITED THE "THREE POSITIVE ELEMENTS" AND EMPHASIZED THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTIONS 1514 AND 1541.

7. ANOTHER LESS LIKELY SUPPORTER OF CONSENSUS TURNED OUT TO BE THE SOVIET REP, AMB KHARLAMOV, WHO SPOKE IN FAVOR OF THE SPONSORS OF THE RESOLUTION AND ALL THOSE WHO HAD AMENDMENTS MEETING TOGETHER TO TRY TO AGREE ON A SINGLE TEXT - WHICH MIGHT ALSO GAIN PUERTO RICAN SUPPORT. HE STARTED BY REMARKING THAT THE C-24 SHOULD NOT IMPOSE ANY SOLUTION ON THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE FROM THE OUTSIDE; THEY HAD SUFFICIENT MATURITY TO DECIDE THEMSELVES. WITH

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MINOR EXCEPTIONS, HE NOTED, ALL PETITIONERS HAD SPOKEN OF THE "COLONIAL" SITUATION IN PUERTO RICO, BUT THEY

HAD ASKED ONLY THAT THE C-24 HELP IN THEIR ACHIEVEMENT OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE. HE QUOTED PARA 125 ON PUERTO RICO FROM THE BELGRADE NON-ALIGNED DECLARATION STRESSING THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING. ALTHOUGH RES 1514 WAS FULLY APPLICABLE TO PUERTO RICO, THE US, HE SAID, STILL HAD NOT COMPLIED WITH IT. HE HAD "NO REAL DIFFICULTY" IN SUPPORTING THE CUBAN RES IF IT MEETS THE WISHES OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE, BUT THERE WERE ALSO AMENDMENTS. HE THOUGHT THEY WERE NOT REALLY AMENDMENTS BUT A NEW RESOLUTION. HE DECRIED THE OMISSION IN THE AMENDMENTS OF THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION "AND INDEPENDENCE". KHARLAMOV STATED THAT CONSENSUS WOULD BE THE BEST WAY OUT BUT WAS NOT ALWAYS THE BEST SOLUTION. HOWEVER, "WE DO FAVOR CONSENSUS", HE CONCLUDED.

8. CZECH REP PENAZKA MADE A BRIEF PRO-FORMA STATEMENT IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE CUBA-IRAQI DRAFT.

9. CUBAN AMB ROA ALSO THOUGHT THE AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENTS AMOUNTED TO A NEW RES. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THEY BE STUDIED CAREFULLY. THE AMENDMENTS CHANGED THE ESSENCE OF THE DRAFT RES RADICALLY, BUT HE DID NOT MEAN TO PREJUDGE THEM. THE CUBAN POSITION OF PRINCIPLE, HOWEVER, REMAINED AS EXPRESSED IN HIS PREVIOUS INTERVENTIONS.

10. THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 7 AT 3:00 P.M. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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